

ARKANSANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for Arkansans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in Arkansas. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in Arkansas.

INCOME: ARKANSANS ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in Arkansas was \$34,217.¹
- In 2005, the median income in Arkansas was \$36,406, a modest increase of 6.4 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN ARKANSAS HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, Arkansas had 374,000 adults without insurance (14.4 percent).³
- In 2005, Arkansas had 494,000 adults without insurance (17.9 percent).⁴
- Arkansas had 1,214 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN ARKANSAS

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in Arkansas was \$6,789.⁶ In 2005, it was \$8,734, a 29 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in Arkansas was \$13,361.⁸ In 2005, it was \$17,040, a 28 percent increase.⁹
- Number of Arkansans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 18,969.¹⁰
- Number of Arkansans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 23,984.¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR ARKANSAS RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in Arkansas was \$1.385 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in Arkansas is \$2.260 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in Arkansas was \$2,057.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in Arkansas is \$3,357, \$1,300 (63.2 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: ARKANSANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in Arkansas – 546,080¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in Arkansas – \$799¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: ARKANSANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of Arkansans killed in Iraq – 34¹⁸
- Number of Arkansans wounded in Iraq – 295¹⁹
- Number of Arkansans killed in Afghanistan – 2²⁰
- Number of Arkansans wounded in Afghanistan – 10²¹
- Number of Veterans in Arkansas – 268,353²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING ARKANSAS' MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 168 estates in Arkansas paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 22 estates in Arkansas will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 113,000 workers in Arkansas would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN ARKANSAS IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes in Arkansas per 100,000 residents in 2000 – 445.3²⁶
- Number of Violent Crimes in Arkansas per 100,000 residents in 2005 – 527.5²⁷
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – \$8,419,093²⁸
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – \$1,902,609²⁹

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST ARKANSANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest Arkansans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of Arkansas residents each received an average of \$2,001 in tax cuts, while middle class Arkansas residents received only \$400.³⁰
- In 2006, the richest one percent of Arkansas residents will receive an average of \$30,193 in tax cuts, while middle class Arkansas residents will only receive \$774.³¹
- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of Arkansas residents will each receive an average of \$53,422 in tax cuts, while middle class Arkansas residents will only receive \$852.³²

The richest Arkansans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest Arkansans received 5.2 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 20.8 percent of the tax cut.³³
- But, in 2006, the richest Arkansans will get 25.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.9 percent of the tax cut.³⁴
- And, in 2010, the richest Arkansans will get 41.5 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 13.1 percent of the tax cut.³⁵

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Arkansans.

- In 2010, the richest Arkansans will receive an average of \$12,993 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest Arkansans will be getting 56.5 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁶
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class Arkansans will receive an average of \$28 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 2.4 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁷

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